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Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 15 October 1999, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Organization of work (A/C.5/54/1/Add.1)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/54/1/Add.1) informing her of the decision by the Assembly to allocate to the Committee an additional sub-item, entitled "Relocation of South Africa to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232", under agenda item 151, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations".

Agenda item 117: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (A/C.5/54/L.9)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.9

2. **Ms. Cardoze** (Panama), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.9, expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.9 was adopted.*

Agenda item 123: Joint Inspection Unit (A/C.5/54/L.5)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.5

4. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.5, submitted by the Chairman, and urged its adoption by consensus.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.5 was adopted.*

Agenda item 129: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (*continued*) (A/C.5/54/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.10

6. **Ms. Cardoze** (Panama), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.10 recommended its adoption by consensus.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.10 was adopted.*

Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/C.5/54/L.6)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.6

8. **Mr. Crom** (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.6, submitted on behalf of the Chairman, urged its adoption by consensus.

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.6 was adopted.*

10. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan), speaking in explanation of position, commended the recommendations of the Phase IV Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment and welcomed their endorsement by the Committee. A shorter procedural decision on the matter could have been adopted at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, but the issue had become complicated and controversial because the Secretariat had failed to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 49/233 A and 50/222. In particular, it had proposed substantive changes to the recommendations of the Phase II and Phase III Working Groups, which had led to protracted negotiations. Also, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had made recommendations that would have substantially modified the proposals of the Working Groups. He was pleased to note that the Fifth Committee had not accepted those recommendations, since the Advisory Committee should have confined its comments to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the proposals.

11. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would submit the report of the Phase V Working Group to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions, and that, in future, the Advisory Committee would comply with rule 157 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly in assisting the Fifth Committee.

12. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway), said that her delegation was satisfied that the outcome of the Phase IV Working Group was well reflected in the draft resolution just adopted by the Committee. The start of the review by the Phase V Working Group of the reports of the Phase II and Phase III Working Groups had been somewhat delayed, and it was therefore of vital importance that all Member States, including those that did not contribute troops, should submit the information needed to enable the Working Group to carry out a sound review. Norway was convinced that the new procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment were an important step towards

streamlining and simplifying the logistical and financial aspects for countries that contributed troops and equipment for peacekeeping operations.

Agenda item 119: Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Development Account (A/C.5/54/L.7)

13. **Mr. Odaga Jalomayo** (Uganda), speaking as the coordinator of the item, said that, despite the great flexibility shown by many delegations, he had been unable in the informal consultations to achieve a text that enjoyed the support of all Member States. In its decision 53/476, the General Assembly had decided that the question of the modalities for operating the Development Account, which had been deferred to the main part of the fifty-fourth session, should be finalized prior to consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, and a deadline of 15 October 1999 had subsequently been set. The Committee should not, however, act in haste, but rather in keeping with the spirit of compromise, flexibility and understanding that had traditionally characterized its work. He was convinced that, given additional time for negotiations, it would be possible to achieve a consensus on a draft resolution, and he therefore appealed to the Committee to defer action on the item.

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.7

14. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, in keeping with the deadline set by the General Assembly and with the declaration issued on 24 September 1999 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group, which had emphasized the need for an early conclusion of the negotiations on the modalities of the Development Account, he wished to introduce draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.7, entitled "Development Account". He drew attention to two editorial changes in paragraph 2. In the first line, the word "any" should be changed to "the", and in the last line, the word "that" should be changed to "this".

15. **The Chairman** said that she had been approached by a number of delegations with the request that further consultations should be held on the Development Account with a view to reaching consensus. She therefore suggested that the Committee should postpone action on the draft resolution.

16. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that, before taking a final decision, the Committee should approach the issue with caution and should consider what options were available to it. In particular, she wished to hear from delegations that had difficulties with the draft resolution. The Committee should consider what framework would best enable it to achieve consensus. Since it was very clear where the difficulties lay, she asked the delegations concerned to inform the Committee of any new proposals or alternatives that could serve to guide the negotiations. It should be borne in mind that the General Assembly had specifically decided to limit the time available for consideration of the issue, which was still pending from the fifty-third session.

17. **Ms. Incera** (Costa Rica) said she agreed with the Cuban delegation that the Committee must ascertain the context and time-frame in which a decision could be taken.

18. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that the Development Account was a basic reform proposal which his delegation supported and wished to see implemented. It was therefore willing to take part in consultations with a view to achieving the widest possible consensus on the issue, as a basis for ensuring the durability and viability of the Development Account. In view of the Committee's heavy workload, he proposed that a new deadline should be set for the completion of negotiations on the issue.

19. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that more time was needed to enable the Committee to reach a consensus on the Development Account. In informal consultations, the European Union had already indicated its willingness to do its utmost to facilitate a solution that would be acceptable to all delegations. He appealed to those most closely involved to show flexibility and a spirit of compromise.

20. **Mr. Yussuf** (United Republic of Tanzania) said he regretted that the Committee had not reached consensus on the important issue under consideration. His delegation strongly favoured the establishment of the Development Account and hoped that a resolution to that effect would be adopted as soon as possible. He supported the Ugandan delegation's proposal to continue consultations on the subject, since it would be in the best interests of the Committee and of all Members of the United Nations to reach a consensus on the draft resolution. He also supported the Algerian delegation's proposal that a new deadline should be set for the completion of the consultations. He urged all delegations to think constructively about the impact of the draft resolution.

21. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, proposed that the meeting should be suspended so that consultations could be held on the draft resolution.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 5.25 p.m.

22. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, deeply regretted the Committee's failure to reach agreement on draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.7, despite the flexibility which the Group of 77 and China had shown during the negotiations. In a spirit of compromise, however, the Group of 77 and China were prepared to allow additional time for negotiations, provided that a decision was reached in plenary meeting by 20 October.

23. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the flexibility which had been shown by the representative of the Group of 77 and China. While he appreciated the urgent need to reach agreement on the Development Account, the Committee must be given enough time to arrive at a solution that was acceptable to all parties. It should therefore be for the coordinator to determine how much time was needed for consultations in order to achieve a successful outcome.

24. **The Chairman** noted that the representatives of the Group of 77 and China and the European Union had somewhat differing views on the subject of a time limit for negotiations on the draft resolution. Given that the coordinator was a member of the Group of 77 and China, the responsibility for further negotiations might be an unfair burden to place on his shoulders. She was aware of the importance of the matter to many delegations and therefore wished to propose that the Bureau should meet after the meeting adjourned to take a decision on the most appropriate course of action.

25. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the current regrettable impasse was not in keeping with the constructive approach which the Committee had brought to its work thus far in the session. The Development Account was a matter of great importance to many countries and the Committee must fully assume its responsibilities by taking a decision on the draft resolution at its current meeting.

26. **Ms. Incera** (Costa Rica) said that the final decision on how to proceed should be made by the Committee in plenary meeting and not by the Bureau.

27. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) noted that the Committee had had a good beginning to its work at the current session and remained optimistic that a compromise could be reached on the Development Account. In terms of procedure, however, if it proved impossible to reach agreement at the current meeting, then a fresh decision must be taken to establish a new deadline for the adoption of the draft resolution.

28. **Mr. Orr** (Canada) said that the officers of the Bureau had been elected by the members of the Committee and it was therefore appropriate that they should make suggestions as to how the Committee might proceed.

The meeting was suspended at 5.50 p.m. and resumed at 6.45 p.m.

29. **The Chairman** announced that the Bureau had rearranged the Committee's programme of work for the week of 18 to 22 October in order to allow time for further consultations on the Development Account. She hoped that it would be possible for the Committee to take a decision on the draft resolution at its formal meeting on 20 October 1999.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.